1	2	3	4
RMG manmade fibre	348.97	242.99	213.19
Leather goods	248.34	229.01	194.26
Handicrafts	234.40	246.96	176.82
Marine Products	145.80	194.79	160.61
Footwear of Leather	190.14	197.51	155.59
Leather footwear components	200.74	187.33	150.60

(d) EC Commissioner for External Relations visited India between 25th and 29th January, 2001 for launching of the India-EU Round Table and having related dialogue. Specific trade related issues were not discussed during his visit. However, during the India-EU Joint Commission meeting held in New Delhi on 6.2.2001, both sides considered various trade related matters.

Export of Semi-processed Leather Products

4121. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that free export of semi-processed hides and skin has been permitted now;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) what is the share of semi-processed products in the total leather export in the country; and

(d) the details of problems in exporting finished products only?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Export of semi-processed hides and skins was permitted to harmonise our trade policy with norms of international trade. However export duty ranging from 15% to 60% has been levied on such exports. Between October 2000 and December 2000 exports of semi processed leather was 0.497 crores against a total export of Rs. 453.45 crores for finished leather during the same

period. Prior to that there was no export from India of semi-processed hides and skins.

White Paper on quantitative restrictions under WTO

4122. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to release a 'White Paper' on the quantitative restrictions on the items under the WTO to dispel notions and misgivings;

(b) if so, when such paper is going to be released; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) to (c) India has been following a continuous policy of removal of restrictions on imports since 1991. Tariff line-wise import policy was first announced on 31.3.1996. As on that date, import of 6161 tariff lines (at 10 digit level) out of the total number of 10202 tariff lines (at 10 digit level) were free. Import restrictions on 488 tariff lines (at 10 digit level) were removed during the period 1.4.96 to 31.3.97. Another 391 tariff lines (at 8 digit level) were freed during the period 1.4.97 to 13.4.98 and 894 tariff lines (at 8 digit level) were freed on 1.4.99. Quantitative restrictions on 714 items were removed on 31.03.2000 and import restrictions on the balance 715 items however removed on 31.03.2001.

Since this issue has been widely debated and since this is not a new development there does not seem to be any need for a 'White Paper' on the subject.

Memorandum received from Rubber Footwear Manufacturers

4123. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any memorandum from All India Federation of Rubber Footwear Manufacturers for their long standing demand; and

(b) if so, what is Government's response thereto?